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March 21: Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day (00/03/20)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) -- The following is a statement by Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, Chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21, 2000.

"March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The date was chosen by the United Nations because it is the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, when South African police shot at peaceful anti-apartheid demonstrators, killing 69 and wounding 180.

"This day takes on added significance this year, as we begin a new century. It gives us a special opportunity to embrace the diversity of our society and to turn the page on the intolerance, conflict and assimilation of the past.

"New Brunswick's diversity of race, culture, language and religion is a source of energy, creativity and vitality. Our diversity can also open up opportunities in the international economic arena.

"On the other hand, racism, prejudice and discrimination prevent us from attaining the full measure of our social cohesion and economic prosperity. Stereotyping prevents us from appreciating the uniqueness of every individual, our many shared values and our common humanity.

"On March 21, I invite all New Brunswickers, and young people in particular, to join the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in a renewed commitment to the fight against racism."

00/03/20

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